



BLOGS

RESOURCES

THE EDUCATED BLOGGER: USING WEBLOGS TO PROMOTE LITERACY IN THE CLASSROOM

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firstmonday.org/issues/issue9_6/huffaker

This paper explores the role of blogs in the classroom settings. Blogs provide an excellent opportunity for educators to advance literacy through storytelling and dialogue. As well, this paper reviews examples of blogs in practice.

STEPHEN DOWNES' WEB

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From the National Research Council, Institute for Information Technology (Moncton, New Brunswick), Stephen Downes specializes in online learning, content syndication, and new media. You can visit his blog and find research, publications, papers and presentations!

The Advanced Broadband Enabled Learning (ABEL) program is a proven job-embedded professional learning service that enhances teaching practice and improves student achievement. This is achieved through a research-based approach to building collaborative learning communities, implementing blended learning environments for classrooms, schools and districts, using interactive web-based learning resources, developing sustainable inter-jurisdictional and inter-institutional collaboration and understanding institutional change. For more information about ABEL, please visit www.abelearn.ca.

THE BASICS

BLOGS IN EDUCATION

Blogs are a great fit for education due to their flexibility and scalability. Because blogs are not limited to individual classes or subjects, they are a great tool that reflects the power of building online communities. They can be used to encourage reading and writing, to showcase the work of students and to exchange ideas among students, teachers and/or administrators.

Blogs allow students to create journals or to express their opinions on topics brought up in class. Be sure that your students understand what it means to publish on the Internet and the consequences of writing opinions that can be read years later by potential employers, colleagues and friends.

WHAT IS A BLOG?

At its most basic level, a blog is a website that contains ongoing, dated entries about a particular topic in reverse chronological order. Typically, they contain the following features: an archive of older entries, a way for readers to leave comments, a "feed" to syndicate the site content and links to other related sites.

Blogs have traditionally been authored by a single individual and were either focused on a particular topic or used reflectively as a personal journal. Their use has evolved increasingly and continues to do so as a tool for website development, resource collection and collaboration.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You can take a peek at a demonstration blog at www.yorku.ca/fsc/demo/blog. Try it out and see if a blog is right for you! You are able to explore it and become familiar with its structure and functionality without any hesitation."

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GETTING STARTED

You can request one or more blogs for your use depending on your needs. You may also request blogs for your students! ABEL's blogging solution has many features and options. To request a blog space, contact us via **Tools** in the Community. Select **Collaboration** then **Blog**.

There are a number of resources available to help you get started! In your blog, you will notice a link to the FSC Blog Support Site. This site will give you a quick introduction to the basic functions of your blog.

If you have any questions about your existing blog, contact us at abelhelp@yorku.ca.

